NOTES ON NEW BOOKS.

Citations out of Foreign Reviews continued.

In a notice of a book on Dress in England ("Costume in England; a history of Dress, from the earthe most confident of the Shakspearean commentators, which is quite amusing. Mr. Fairholt says:

"Shakspeare's description, in his King John, of the tailer, who, eager to acquaint his friend the smith with the prodiges the skies had just exhibited, and whom Hubert saw

"Standing on slippers which his nimble haste
Had falsely thrust upon contrary feet,"
is strictly accurate. But half a century ago this passage was
adjudged to be one of the many proofs of Shakspeare's ignorance or carelessness. Dr. Johnson, unaware himself of the
truth in this point, and, like too many other critics, determined to pass the verdict of a self-elected and ill-informed judge, makes himself supremely ridiculous by saying, in a tote to this passage, with ludicrous solemnity, 'Shakspeare seems to have confounded the man's shoes with his gloves. He that is frighted or hurried may put his hand into the wrong glove but either shoe will equally admit either foot. The authorseems to be disturbed by the disorder which he describes. This off-hand style of accusation and condemnation, founded on a mistaken affinity between ages remote and distinct from each other, may be quite as easily fallen into by the artist who would alter the shape or form of an article of costume because it may clash with modern ideas of taste, perhaps quite as full unfounded prejudice as the taste of an earlier time, and which may thus falsify more than improve his subject. That which tells most upon the eve in an ancient picture or sculpture as a quaint or a peculiar bit of costume, and which may occasionally be taken as bad drawing, is not unfrequently the

most accurate delineation of a real peculiarity. By confining his early researches to the outward man of South Britain, Mr. Fairholt has, no doubt, avoided some serious difficulties. Since the antique fashion of Scotland appears to have been a painted skin, we should like to know how our historian of clothes would have treated that sort of wearing apparel. Rag Fair was hardly very flourishing then, and perhaps the state of the old clothes trade rather low. One would like to know, too, what the learned annalist has to say to the celebrated couplet cited in the Scriblerus papers as to the costume, on one occasion, of an Anglo-Saxon monarch :

"A painted vest Prince Vortigern had on, Which from a naked Pict his grandsire wen.'

It appears from the Review that our antiquary of slops next proceeds to handle the venerable matter of the beard. It says:

"There is no end to the absurd vagaries of taste displayed by our ancestors in all parts of their personal adornment, and examples of which are faithfully chronicled and carved in this volume. It is remarkable, also, in contemplating them, to find how folly itself exhausts its inventive resources in time, and has to revert to the fashions of some long-departed age. Under the head of 'Beards,' for instance, in the ample glossary at the latter part of the volume, we are presented with ten goodly specimens of mustachio and beard, worn by various worthies between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, some of which would excite a spirit of emulation in the chin of the

Here, now, is a reviewer to be ashamed of: one to be himself reviewed for the narrowness of his deas. It is some son of the strap, some shaver turned critic, some ex-weaver of wigs, who writes thus irreverently of that sacred part of the person, the beard. Did not those fine old-fashioned gentlemen, the Patriarchs, scorn all denudation of their chins? Can there be any doubt of Moses's having sported moustaches, or of Aaron's having cherished his whiskers?" Was not the letting himself be cropped the undoing of that strong man, Samson? What if Prince Absalom suffered for his redundant locks? That is only a wig-maker's instance in favor of his own vile commodity, toupees and scratches. Besides, Absalom should have kept his glib, and therein they have a great pleasure.' hat on, or avoided running his head into the bushes. We read in all the picture books that the Apostles preserved, with the most jealous self-respect, the down to Joe Smith, has pretended to think of being a prophet without a hairy amplitude of evidence be neath his nose and ears?

If we turn to Pagan creeds, we find the masculine glory of the face held not less in reverence. When, in the outset of the Iliad, Thetis ascends to supplication, she falls at his feet, clasps with one In like manner, when the Mussel Socrates, Plato, the mighty intellect of Aristotle and improved by the condescension of Mr. Grimshaw. can have forgotten how, at the taking of the city by Brennus, the Senate, knowing that all was lost, assembled in the customary temple, and sat with flowing robes and sweeping beards, in profound silence, awaiting their fate; until at last some barbarian soldier, flushed with plunder, entered the hall and taking them, from their stillness and their imposing looks, for a body of sculptured demi-gods. fell at the feet of the grandest looking old fellow of them all and stroked his beard? Roused by the indignity, the Conscript Father lifted on high his ivory sceptre and felled the profane Gaul to the earth, though at the certain consequence of immediate massacre to himself and all his senatorian brothers. Rome might perish; but beards must be vindicated !

The fact which we have just mentioned sufficiently attests the Celtic admiration as well as the Latin pride in this manly ornament of the visage. In the Druidical religion, that powerful and artful priesthood is well known to have reserved to itself the important privilege of nourishing a superior shagginess of excretion. Their Christian successors. the Welsh bards, retained it, down to the time of their general massacre by Edward I: witness Gray's description of the wildly-floating coma of the last of them :

Loose his beard and hoary hair

The ancient Germans appear, from Tacitus, to have set a due value upon the gift of a beard-one of the comeliest parts of the person, and surely one of the strongest marks of the superiority of our Caucasian race to all others. The Gymnosophists of the East rejoiced in it equally.

From Britain, then, to China (for, though having little beard, the Chinese make the best of it) we see every where, among undegenerate mankind, this flos virilis; this sign and stamp of sexual sovereignty; this inverted crown of the chin held sacred-a religion in all faiths alike; a creed of the countenance, from the Patriarchs to the Rabbis; from the demigods and heroes to the philosophers and rhetoricians; from the Apostles and Fathers down to the Mormons; from the Druids and Scalds down to the infidel jacobin and profligate of "Young France;" from Egypt to Russia, (whose beard Peter the Great attempted in vain to curtail;) and from the conquering hopoplete, the Greek heavy-armed, down to our own hairy heroes in Mexico. Now if, with the rise and fall of faiths and empires, the fortunes of the beard itself have sometimes fluctuated, what wonder? Yet, even in its variations, there is, perhaps, discernible a law.

Every where, the heroic age of each nation recognises the sanctity, the law-giving age the policy, and the age of art the beauty of the beard. It

sank into a mere fashion. While innovation as-sailed it not, the State was safe, nationality stood farewell, with one more extract—a description of firm. But as soon as men, yielding their heads to the towery heads of the ladies of 1768. It may, at artificial ideas, came to have barbers—grew pleased any event, serve as an offset to Stanihurst's descripwith sophistication-could consent to commit the tion of Irish head-dressing, which we have already natural majesty of their heads (whether laws or given: beards) to the trivial hands of a tonsor, of a clipperoff of immemorial things-could let this reformer fashion that was so varied and so elaborate, which increased tume in England; a history of Dress, from the ear-liest period till the close of the eighteenth century by F. W. Fairholt, F. S. A.: London, 1846") we find embodied an illustration of the skill of one of the most confident of the Shakspearean commer-them of the Shakspearean commer-The introduction of barbers was fatal to the beard, just as that of improvers is to institutions. Brought in, at first, only to correct excrescences, they end by ing the hair, 'favored 'the world' with much learning on the leaving you not as much of the mark of manliness as graces the lip of many a woman: they

Shear us, Like a tame wether, all our precious fleece; Then turn us out ridiculous, despoiled, Shav'n and disarmed, among our enemies

magnanimity, perfectly knew that to smooth down the faces of men into sleekness went far towards London Magazine of 1768: 'False locks to supply defithe faces of men into sleekness went far towards rendering them effeminate. What Lycurgus thought of the hair and its military importance, every body knows or ought to know. When Cyrus sought some milder way than that of military executions, by which to punish the repeated revolts of the Lydians and bend them to a quiet slavery, he changed their dress from wool to silk, their sports from athletic and martial exercises to voluptuous dances, and of course (to womanize them being the object) made them shave. It was Alexander the Great who first made the Greeks clip their beards, under present and the first made the Greeks clip their beards, under present and the first made the Greeks clip their beards, under present and the first made the Greeks clip their beards, under present and the first made the Greeks clip their beards, under present and the first made the Greeks clip their beards, under present and the first made the f the faces of men into sleekness went far towards first made the Greeks clip their beards, under pretence of removing a handle which the enemy might seize in battle. The Romans, we know, did not begin to practice any of the ignoble arts of the friseur and coiffeur until after the fall of Carthage, when anarchy and slavery began to spring up at home out of arms and conquest abroad: the first barbers she knew were introduced from Sicily, in the time of Scipio Africanus; who was also the first man in Rome to submit to a daily scraping of changeling of Romulus, how was the victim of barbers and tailors to withstand that capillary superiority? Do we not see, in English history, William of Normandy, after his conquest, resorting to says of him: the old means of enslaving, and cutting off the beards of the Saxons, by way of destroying the national spirit? In Ireland the same thing seems to have been practised, during the tardy subjugation of that luckless people, equally unmanageable by friend and foe. Our readers who may have at hand Tom Moore's Irish Melodies may find, as well as we been practised, during the tardy subjugation of that recollect, some account of this persecution of the tresses in a note to a song entitled "Coolen." The romantic love locks, to be sure, which the damsel in the song dwells on so doatingly were nothing but that mat of hair and beard, making an enormous animated felt, which Stanihurst (apud Hollinshed's Chronicles, vol. 6, p. 228) describes so curiously, as worn by the Hibernians of his day and forming, by its compacted mass, a sort of natural armor of the head, proof alike to the sword and the shilaleh. A citation of the passage may amuse our readers:

"Their beards and heads they never wash, cleanse nor cut, especially their heads; the hair whereof they suffer to grow, saving that some do round it; and by reason that the same is never kembed, it grows fast together, and in process of time it matteth so thick and fast together, that it is instead of a hat, keepeth the head very warm, and also will bear off

Old Bulwer, in his Artificial Changeling, (written against the English excesses of hair-dressing,) describes it much in the same way. He says they bristly honors of their jaws; and who, from Noah used it for the purpose (in lieu of napkins or handkerchiefs) of wiping their greasy fingers. They are also represented in the cuts to the curious Description of Ireland, by Derricke, which Sir Walter Scott has given in his edition of the Somers Tracts.

In England the wearing of the beard continued, with probably little of fantastic in its fashions, down ask of Jove a favor, in the most solemn form of to the time of Elizabeth. Under James I, we find pointed, and a little later forked beards. Presently dies, which modern art has never attempted and arm his knees, and, as the most sacred manner of they grew into a thousand strange colors and shapes, not even suspected until of late to exist in the tion is indispensable, which two requisites are answered by appeal, touches with the other hand his majestic such as the Knight's and Ralpho's, in Hudibras, Greek monuments. Such explanations as this railway communication. The same results have been shown upon the commercial relations of Southern Europe. may serve as samples of. Such of our readsrs as | make the beauty of Greek art no longer an in- in connexion with the lines which now diverge from different use the highest form of adjuration, he swears by the hairs on the chin of Mahomed. The Seven Sages hairs on the chin of Mahomed. The Seven Sages on the passage, some curious facts in the hisson that the peaking as positive as stinct, a gift, a guess, but something as positive as science itself, though founded on more airy perform the facilities which the farmer, to a distance of forty or of Greece, and the long line of her philosophers, tory of the chin, and particularly a sort of catalogue of the various cuts and colors of the heard, which all the subsequent wisdom of her moralists, cultivated Taylor (called the Water Poet, from his being a an ample beard as the very designation of the pro- Thames boatman) had seen flourish in his day-the found thinker. In Rome, a single fatal incident latter part of James I. and beginning of Charles I.'s marks what was there the dignity of this foliage of reign. Of Taylor (mentioned in the Dunciad as the countenance; who that has read Goldsmith, as acting as the Charon of the shades to which all bad poets must descend) an amusing account may be onsulted in Southey's Lives of Uneducated Poets. Taylor says, in his very prosaic verse :

> Now a few lines to paper will I put, Of men's beards strange and variable cut; In which there's some doe take as vaine a pride As almost in all other things beside. Some are reaped most substantial like a brush Which makes a natural wit known by the bush And, in my time, of some men I have heard Whose wisdom has been only wealth and beard. Many of these the proverb well doth fit, Which says, "Bush natural, more hair than wit." Some seem as they were starched so stiff and fine, Like to the bristles of some angry swine; And some, to set their love's desire on edge. Are cut and pruned like to a quikset hedge Some like a spade, some like a fork, some square Some round, some mow'd like stubble, some stark bare Some sharp, stiletto-fashion, dagger-like, That may, with whisp'ring, a man's eyes outpike : Some with the hammer-cut, or Roman T : Their beards extravagant reformed must be ome with the quadrate, some triangle fashion; Some circular, some oval in translation; Some perpendicular in longitude; Some like a thicket for their crassitude.

That heights, depths, breadths, triforme, square, oval, And rules geometric in beards are found. We have reserved, however, one argument in fafinance will find a finisher. Beards have, ere now, among heroic men stood bail for their owner, and even supplied him at a pinch with a bill of ex-

Of the history of wigs, some notices may be read n that amusing pawn-broker's shop of learning's lines. It appears that the upper steps of the portico, instead ast clothes, that repository-general for stolen goods, of being perfectly horizontal, are slightly curved, the rise in D'Israeli's Curiosities of Literature: though what the centre being two lockes and three-quarters in one hunthe relation between perukes and literature, we dred and one feet; and the architrave, frieze, and cornice should like to understand. They are said to have have a similar rise, probably for the purpose of correcting the should like to understand. They are said to have appearance of depression in the middle, an effect observable originated from Charles VIII. (of France) and his in perfectly straight horizontal lines. The same curvatures oss of his hair, by a disease not the politest. In are found to exist in other Greek temples, and in the temple France they seem to have been in their glory un- of Segesta, in Sicily, whilst in the great temple at Pastum der Louis XIV. All who are acquainted with the they are confined to the fronts, the stylobate and entablature finer and portraited editions of the elegant memoirs of that with knight of the post, the Count de Grammont, must remember the vastness of wig in which heroes and statesmen (Condé and Turenne, Louis and Charles II, Hyde and Buckingham) figure there. A little later, under Anne, came, with the victories of Marlborough, that curious sort of national trophy, the Ramilies wig. It was, however, a fruit of conquest much akin to that which our Mexican successes seem to promise. The portraits of Addison and of the other wits of his time (Swift, Pope, &c.) show them to us in showers of artificial curls. Yet the Spectator has the conscience to deride, in one of its papers, the female head-dress of its times.

a faith, an institution, a tradition, before it tural guises by the time of Belinda and the Rape or even vegetable life. It is obvious that the moon alone, "It would be impossible to do more than give types of

ing no small claim to the superior merit of 'so important an art,' and, not content with merely describing the mode of dressorigin of hair, affirming it to be 'a vapor or excrement of the brain, arising from the digestion performed by it at the instant of its nourishment,' with many other curious and leamed con-clusions, into which we cannot think of following then. The figures selected from this book will show with what care and dexterity ladies' heads were then dressed, 'with many a good Then turn us out ridiculous, desponed,
Shav'n and disarmed, among our enemies.

The ancients and whatever since of valiant and able hath drawn civil skill from Nature and inborn

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The turn us out ridiculous, desponed, as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum, over which the hair vas dextends the construction of wool' as a substratum of wool' as a subs

In Charles Knight's new popularized "History of England during the last thirty years,' (from 1815 to 1845,) part I, we find that there is a sort of general survey of the late "progress"—the legiti-mate one, that of science and the practical arts which must be quite interesting to the general reader. In the analysis which the English reviewer gives of it, we find the subjoined remarks on the subject, in particular, of the recent improvements in books of his face. Under the Emperors every body shav- education. In general, these remaks are just; yet his face. Under the Emperors every body shaved; for, in a time of slavery, it is well to look as like a girl or an eunuch as one can. When the terrible Langobardi—that is Long-beards, now Lombards—came upon the peeled and cropped of the new ones better; and that mack systems of the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been produced, by almost the shp-load, quite as much worse than the old school books as are many of the new ones better; and that mack systems of Counties lines, the metropolis has been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the fact is particularly remarkable. It has been adopted. In the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and New York, the neighborhood of large cities, such as London, Paris, and Paris cities and Paris cities and Lombards-came upon the peeled and cropped of the new ones better; and that mack systems of sudden education have been palmel upon the world with a still wider success than the eal ameliorations in education. Mr. Knight's reviewer, however,

"The errors of our system of elemenary instruction, and the steps which have been made towrds its improvement, would be too wide a subject to enter upo at the present moment. Bitter experience, however, covinces us that there of our young days. And why? The system was so purely Young gentlemer were out into forms and forms, and there, fixed, as it were, at a place of torture, had certain rules and exceptions "ground into them. The why or wherefore of the rules they were never told, and to have dared to inquire would have incurred an inevitable flogging. Is it wonderful that, under such a system, learning should have been distasteful, and, after panful acquirement, so easily forgotten, except by those few who had the perseverance to pursue acquaintance with it into higher regions, from whence they could look down with complacency upon the rug-ged path by which they had first set out in its pursuit. We will only give two examples of what we refer to in this regard. Take the famous "rule o' three" of our dear old Bonnycastle. Can any rule appear more crude and arbitrary, unsupported by the rationale, the principle upon which it is founded? Unfold to us, however, the fourth book of Euclid, and the whole doctrine of proportions and progressions, of which the terms in a "rule of three" sum are but a part, beof a hat, keepeth the head very warm, and also will bear off a great blow or stroke. And this head of hair they call a glib, and therein they have a great pleasure." comes at once obvious. Then take the rule for completing the first side of a quadratic equation; namely, adding the square of half the co-efficient of the second term. This we protest can appear in no other light than as a piece of legerdemain to the astonished tyro, until the rationale of it is solved by a reference to the fourth proposition of the second book of Euclid. Yet how seldom have the principles of Euclid, by which most arithmetical calculations may be resolved, been referred to for their elucidation. In school practice, Euclid

> In another of the same useful compiler's works (his Pictorial Gallery) we meet a passage which will give to most readers, we are sure, quite a new idea of the real principles of Greek archiecture. and of elements in its effects and objects in its stuceptions.

> "Wherever we turn we find the Parthenon at Athens made the theme or standard in most discussions concerning chitectural beauty. Lord Nugent, in his recent work, (Lands Classical and Sacred,) makes remarks which are timately connected with geometrical design in Greek archi-cture. When speaking of the studies of modern srehitects on the temples of Greece, he says: 'They have long known that all these models differ in the symmetry of their parts according to the height and general character of the ground on which they stand and over which they are to be approached They have long learned that in these things as in many others there is a certain spirit of compromise which is not at vari-ance with the strictest principles, while it abates the harshness of their application. And, as in music, the tuning of an instrument is merely a mechanical process, whereas the and genius of an accomplished musician: so in the other arts, taste and genius are required to nicely arrange those modifications which give a charm to the whole, but are never perceived except in the general effect. Thus it was left to Mr. Cockerell and to the Germans who followed him in the inquiry within the last few years to discover that in the Parthenor and Temple of Theseus there is not one straight line only as any eye will easily detect the tapering lines of each column converging from the bottom of the shaft to the top are curves, no one of which can be described from a single centre, but the axes themselves converge also to assist the perspective of height, and this in a different degree with reference to the different height of the ground the temple covers. Then, again, the ground-plan also is of curves; the columns, both of the portico and sides, stand on convex lines; the converging of the axes of the columns is very distinctly the diagrams, even of that old but beautiful work of Stuart's. The convex lines of the ground-plan have been very recently and ably reasoned upon by Mr. Pennethorne, and may be observed by looking along the face or side from an angle of either of these buildings. All the lines of the architraves, pediments, and peristyles are also curved.

Scarcely a month passes without adding something to the vor of heards, which we know the present age of store of knowledge, to the desire of research, concerning the Greek temples. While we are now writing (March, 1846) the 'Athenaum' gives an abstract of a paper real before the Institute of British Architects on this subject, as follows: On a recent visit to Athens Mr. Penrose availet himself of Need we remind our readers how the the opportunity now afforded by the removal of the mass of magnanimous Albuquerque pawned a moustache to rubbish which formerly surrounded the structure, to measure carry on an expedition, or need we hint that he redeemed it to the last hair? was previously discovered by Mr. J. Pennethorne, the exist-ence, both in the steps and entablature, of certain curved Mr. Penrose bal likewise an of the flanks being horizontal. opportunity of measuring the shafts of the columns with great accuracy, and determining that the entains is a hyper-

> We have nowhere else met with an account so striking as the following of what the great Rosse telescope has effected or seems likely to effect:

"Not less interesting is the vast telescope of Lord Rosse, by means of which it is possible to make a reasonable conclusion as to the supposition whether the moon be inhabited or not, and gain great information as to its physical condition. The moon is evidently destitute of water in any considerable quantity; there are no seas, rivers, or lakes on that body; all is one scene of volcanic desolation and utter havoe : there are craters fifty to sixty miles in diameter, and faults and fissures This, however, must have sunk back into more na-

from its comparatively little distance, offers to the observer an opportunity closely to observe its physical constitution. Passing then from the solar system, we find the sun placed in the midst of a firmament of millions of other stars, some so remote as to mingle their rays into the indistinct band of the milky as to mingle their rays into the indistinct band of the milky way. In this vast system, imagination, or rather analogy, peoples the void with myriads of planets attending these stars, whilst some of the systems have double, triple, and quadruple suns to give them light and heat. But the mind, bursting beyond the limits of the galaxy, and her creature, the telescope, brings into view in the expanse over three thousand groups of stars similar to our galaxy. Three thousand visible milky ways, firmaments of brilliant suns, each firmament composed of myriads of stars—each star accompanied by many planets, and each planet stocked by races of living creatures capable of their fitted degrees of enjoyment; these are the results of astronomic observation. Connected with the starry discoveries of the telescope may be mentioned the approximate calculations of Dr. Madler, as to the point about which our sun revolves. That the sun is in motion was made known from the observa-That the sun is in motion was made known from the observa-tions of the elder Herschel and he fixed the point in the conincrease their relative distance from each other just as the trees in a wood appear to separate as the spectator approaches them.

The point towards which the motion is directed being known, the next step was to approximate the centre about which the revolution was made; this evidently must be at a quadrant's distance from the first named point. Sweeping then the heavens with a great circle from the point in Hercules, and assuming that the centre about which the content of the point in Hercules, and assuming that the centre of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming that the centre of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming the state of the point in Hercules, and assuming the hercules, and assuming the hercules are the point in Hercules, and assuming the hercules are the hercules and the hercules are the hercules and the hercules are the ing that the centre about which the revolution is described in towards the centre of the milky way, the intersection of the circle above named with the galaxy, guided by the considerations drawn from the position of the sun in the milky way, led Dr. Mædler to asign the centre first to a point in the constellation Taurus, then to the group of the Pleiades, and finally to fix on the star Alcyone as the probable centre. The method has been thus briefly alluded to, since a summary of the results is already known to every reader. Dr. Mædler calculates the distance of this star at 537 years of the flight of light to our sun; all stars then within this distance from the centre in our galaxy must revolve, as well as the sun, about it.

Though not new to all the world, we recommend the following well-stated facts to all those anti-im-provers, individuals or States, who still cling to Gen. Jackson's preference of road wagons and dirt turnpikes over railways, and consider that mild and enlightened statesman as "the farmer's best friend:" "The advantages which have accrued to agricultural pro-

duce from the facilities afforded by railway communication of conveying their produce to market, as well as the reciprocal advantages derived by the consumers, have been rendered apparent wherever the railway system has been adopted. milk, butter, cheese, poultry, and the general articles of farm produce, than at any former period. Nor has it been only with respect to the quantity supplied that the advantages rapid communication have been demonstrated. The quality, provement, and it is well known with respect to milk, that that article as now sold in the metropolis, is no longer of a quality so artificial that it might be doubted whether, in strict ropriety of language, the name milk could be applied to it. rom the means of transport which are now so abundantly within their reach, the farmers of Essex, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Hampshire find aready market in the metropolis for articles which they for-merly never dreamed of sending thither. In former times London was chiefly supplied with articles of a perishable na-ture from a circuit comprehending parts of Middlesex, Essex, Kent, and Surrey, with a radius of not more than three or four miles. The aread of miles of the comprehending parts of Middlesex, Essex, four miles. The speed of railway conveyance being seven or eight times that by cart or wagon (in the times referred to the means of conveyance) the consequence has been that such ar-ticles are now supplied to the metropolis from a circuit seven or eight times the length of that which formerly supplied them; The profits accruing to dairy farmers from their sale of milk have increased 300 or 400 per cent., and the number of cows now reared for the purposes of the dairy are eight to one what they were formerly. Equal encouragement has arisen from the same cause for the cultivation of vegetables of every demencement of the railway system, the animal food supplied from being slaughtered in a diseased state. But it was not merely the fatigue of travelling which injured the animal, but also the absence from its accustomed pasture. The transport of calves and lambs from a greater distance than thirty miles, as many hours as they formerly took days to travel. To confifty miles from Paris, now enjoys of conveying his produce thither, Parisians are supplied with abundance of their favorite article. Fruit and all kinds of vegetables, grown at a distance, also find a new market in Paris; while the increase which has taken place within the last two years, in the French capital, in the consumption of butcher's meat, also forms a no Brittany and Normandy by railway, as also from all other

INTERESTING PAINTINGS.

ocalities with which the same means of communication exist."

I announced to you some time since that Mr. Brown, an artist, was in General Taylor's camp for the purpose of painting portraits of General Taylor and staff. I have had an ortunity of examining this gentleman's performances as far completed, and unhesitatingly pronounce them beautiful the general excellence of their execution. He has already pleted a splendid portrait of General TAYLOR and of Major BLISS, both of which are most admirable likenesses-that of General Taylor particularly. He has also finished a painting of General Taxton and most of his officers in camp, on a canvass about four feet by three, representing the General standing under the awning in front of his tent, bare-headed, about to leave for a ride; his orderly sergeant is standing near by, holding his old gray horse, and Major Buss is in the ght artillery, Capt. GARNETT, 7th infantry, Capt. RAMSAY, ordnance department, and Capt. LINNARE, topographical engineers. The figures are all in miniature, and executed with a most life-like faithfulness and exquisite finish. I cannot pay the artist a greater compliment than by saying that there is perceptible, in all his faces, that peculiar delicacy and exqui-site softness of finish, that was so distinguishing a feature in the productions of the lamented Inman. Mr. B. is now engaged upon a battle piece-the scene Buena Vista. [Correspondence of Picayune

THE SICKNESS AMONG ENIGRANTS .- A Quebec corresstant, as follows: "The steamship St. George has just arrived from Grosse Isle, and brings up 66 convalescent immigrants. The sickness has not abated, and the mortality is of an object lens, say of 110 inches focal length) to the exmuch the same, viz : between thirty and forty per diem. Hospitals all full. I learn that 200 of the passengers of the Virginius have died since her sailing, and it is said that very few of her whole number (upwards of 500) will recover.

CRANBERRIES .- Mr. William Hall, of Norway, has suc ecded in raising cranberries on a patch of boggy land. He sowed the berries in the spring, on the snow and ice. The seed took well, and rooted out the weeds. Last year he gathered six bushels from a patch of land about three rods square, which, a few years since, was entirely useless. If this berry, which commands so high a price, can be as easily cultivated as this, it certainly is an object for farmers to try the experiment on their boggy land.

THE IMAGE OF ISIS .- An old priest at Memphis had the image of The Veiled Isis standing in the hall of his dwelling ingeniously formed of gray marble. His son, a lively active boy, stood often before the image, and longed very much to behold the concealed countenance of the goddess. One day he could no longer restrain his curiosity; he took a hammer and chisel, and with a few blows struck off the veil. But, to his great surprise, he now beheld nothing more than a piece of raw shapeless stone!

"What dost thou there?" asked the priest, who just came up. "I wanted to see the face of the goddess."

running over one-third of the whole visible surface have been seen. Such a body would clearly be unfit to support animal the schools of the sages."—Schreibner.

OPENING THE CANAL FROM THE DURANCE

The Marseilles papers are filled with glowing accounty of the celebration held in that city on the 8th of July, in honor of the completion and inaugu-

The celebration of the inauguration of the waters into the canal took place in the presence of the civil authorities and an immense concourse of people. Over fifteen thousand persons were around the pavilion from which the Bishop of Marseilles pronounced his benediction and invoked the blessing of Heaven upon this great undertaking. The discourse of the Bishop, on the occasion, is one of great beauty, as well as another delivered by a citizen named Marius Massot, which we find reported at length in the Semaphore, and for which we would gladly find room if we could. We can only give an extract from the congratulation of the latter :

"This work has been the one thought of ages. For a long series of years this thought of our fathers has had a form given to it, now in the deliberation of constituted assemblies, and now in the writings and efforts of the most distinguished inellects. From time to time a few men of courage have ventured to pass from theory to application, as is shown by the subterraneous excavations near Aix. The thought of the canal has at times slept, but it has never been abandoned. It has been one of those convictions that survive man and are superior to time. It has been given to our epoch to put into execution this thought of our fathers, and to realize the hopes of ages. Honor to you citizens of Marseilles, who have not shrunk from this immense sacrifice! Honor to our municipal magistrate, who fewed not to assume upon himself all the responsibility of this colossal undertaking! Honor to the Municipal Council of 1836, who entered upon this work with banners flying, upon which were inscribed, 'Never to be abandoned!'

This canal is eighty-three thousand metres in length, of sages through nountains. The descent of the water, from dred feet. The subterranean pass of the Taillades is spoken greatest triumph. At one period it nearly proved an insurmountable ibstacle. Some idea of these difficulties may be formed from the fact that it was at one time necessary, in order to keep the water under that flowed in upon the workmen oo, of the articles referred to has undergone proportionate im- from various springs, in fourteen different shafts sunk in the rocks, to employ machines of a hundred horse power, by which six housand litres (a litre is a gall. 0.22) were raised nal is 5.75 cubic metres per second at the epoch of the lowest water.

A full history of this immense undertaking, detailing all the difficulties surmounted, and the means by which Art achieved one of its noblest triumphs over Nature, is in the course of esex, Essex, preparation by M. Montricher, the engineer .- Boston Atlas.

A letter from Milan describes the plan of a proposed railroad which has been in contemplation a long while, but which now seems, for the first time, to be taken hold of with active determination. It is to connect the road from Genoa to Lake Majir. Leaving this last point at Locarno, and crossing the consequently the land now available for the metropolitan mar-kets is from forty-nine to sixty-four times its former extent. Lukmanier, it comes out, after having thus crossed the Alps, near Constance, following the valley of the Rhine. Its length will be about two hundred and fifty-four kilometres, and the estimated cost of the road is about seventy-five millions. This line will form a direct line of communication for the whole nomination. But the advantages of railways to farmers are southern network of these commercial arteries, viz : the Baalmost more remarkably evinced in the superior supply which now exists of animal food to the metropolis.' Before the combourg; the Wurtemberg line, from Frederickshafen to Stuttto the London market was not only defective in quantity but gardt, and uniting with the main Baden road at Brecksal; unwholesome in quality—comparatively, at least, with what it might have been had the tract from which it could have been Munich and Vienna; and also with the Prussian and Saran Munich and Vienna; and also with the Prussian and Saxon they are conveyed in railway carriages adapted for the especial purpose. More or less injury was always sustained by the animals from the fatigues of the journey, and their value was considerably lessened owing to the inferior quality of the mean of executing it with those of Piedmont. They have agreed to grant the shareholders an interest of four per cent. But it was not to be guarantied by the Canton, the Sardinian Government,

This great undertaking, if, as all begin now to believe, it

CONVICTION FOR ROBBING THE MAIL, - Last week in Cincinnati the trial took place of Pettis and Wilson, for stealing the United States mail from the steamboat Ben Franklin, in June. The prisoners were traced and identified by different witnesses to New York, Albany, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Cleveland, Erie, and one was arrested at Silver Creek, (N. Y.) at which places they passed under different names, selm using their own. They boasted of being in possessi less interesting subject of observation as springing from the same cause. Cattle are now brought to the Paisian market gambling, from their steambout stocks, from marrying an heir gambling, from their steambout stocks, from marrying an heiress, by picking pockets, and various other means, never telling the same story to two persons. They were disguised when arrested. The chain of testimony was complete, and their guilt placed beyond doubt. The principal point made by Messrs. Ewing and Swayne, the counsel for the accused, was that the testimony did not show the original taking to have been within the district of Ohio. Judge McLean, in charging the jury, ruled that if the original act was committed without the State, and the stolen mail afterwards brought to Cincinnati by the defendants, it was a taking within the State of productions—such as would do credit to any artist in the country, not only from the faithfulness of the likenesses, but from returned a verdict of guilty against both the defendants. They were sentenced, Pettis to ten and Wilson to seven years' confinement in the penitentiary.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE TELESCOPE. - A combination of the elescope with the daguerreotype has recently been effected in its application to as ronomical purposes by the Royal Society of Bohemia. Professor Doppler says that notwithstanding the extreme susceptibility of the human eye, it is surpassed nany thousand times by an iodized silver plate. The physic logical researches of Muller and Weber have shown that the of calling his attention to a letter just received, which he holds in his hand. In various positions, seated and standing, and variously occupied, are Col. Mansfield, of the topographical engineers, Col. Munner, of the artillery, Col. Choghan, inspector general, Major Eaton, 3d infantry, Major Bases, retina pupillæ with microscopic experiments made with Da-guerre's plates a single globule of mercury only becomes visi-ble by an eight hundred-fold magnifying power microscope, and on the space of a Daguerre plate equal to one retina pu pills more than 40,000 minute globes are to be met with Each of these is capable of producing the image of well defined objects. Thence Prof. Doppler argues that Daguerre's plates are 40,000 times more susceptible of impressions than the human eye. At the exact point, therefore, when the image of a celestial body is formed before the object lens of a telescope of considerable length, an apparatus is to be placed where a silver iodized plate can be securely inserted. As the place of the image is the same for all celestial objects, a plate of well defined constant thickness can be inserted with great accuracy. In this way mages of the smallest fixed stars can be obtained if the light will be sufficient to affect the plates. tent of fourteen times their natural sppearance, and again magnified twelve hundred fold, the angle of vision under which they are now to be viewed will have been increased sixteen thousand fold.

> THE LADIES OF LIMA .- Far superior to the men, both physically and intellectually, are the women of Lima. Na-ture has lavishly endowed them with many of her choicest gifts. In figure they are usually slender and rather tall, and they are especially remarkable for small elegantly formed feet. Their fair faces, from which the glowing breath of the tropics banish every trace of bloom, are animated by large, bright, dark eyes. Their features are pleasing, the nose being well formed, though in general not small, the mouth invariably adorned with two rows of brilliant white teeth, (the women of Lima clean their teeth several times a day with the root called raiz de dientes, literally root for the teeth, of which they keep a piece constantly in their pocket,) and their long black hair, arranged in plaits, falls gracefully over their bo-som and shoulders. Add to all this a captivating grace of manner and deportment, joined to an exceeding degree of gentleness and amiability, and it will be readily admitted that the Limena is a noble specimen of female loveliness

[Von Tschndi's Travels in Peru.

SMITH, in his "Wealth of Nations," says "the patrimon of a poor man lies in the strength and dexterity of his hands and to hinder him from employing this strength and dexterity in what manner he thinks proper, without injury to his neigh-bor, is a violation of his sacred property." NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

New York, August 17, 1847. Cheap Riding .- I doubt whether any other large city in the world is provided with such facilities, natural and artificial, to enable all its inhabitants to escape from its noise and dust and heat on a hot summer's day, far enough to see the green fields and breathe for a few hours a fresh breath of country air, as this same city of New York. And this privilege is afforded at so cheap a rate, too, that it can be enjoyed almost as readily by the poor as the rich. There are five steam-ferries to Brooklyn, with boats running every five or ten minutes, and a sixth will be in operation soon, to run from the foot of Wall street to Brooklyn heights, between the Fulton and South Ferries. There are two or three ferries to Williamsburg, which stands a little above Brooklyn, on the Sound, and opposite the centre of New York; besides ferries to Flushing and various other places still farther up the

Cemetery, a ferry to Fort Hamilton and Coney Island, two or more ferries to Staten Island, and ferries round to Newark and other places in New Jersey. Then, if we look into the Hudson river, there is the great ferry to Jersey City, from the lower point of New York; three ferries from different points running across to famed Hoboken, and several others running to different places a little further up the river. These ferries are all supplied with commodious steamboats, well fitted up and running with great regularity, speed, and safety. And the charge upon them varies from two to twelve and a half cents. The boats to Brooklyn charge but two cents, and even this, it is believed, will be reduced one half before long, as the travel is so great, and every year increasing, that a penny fare would pay the company a large profit. One of these ferries (the Fulton) runs all night, and the others (to Brooklyn) run till midnight, and commence again by four o'clock in the morning.

If we look down the Bay, there is a ferry to Greenwood

Besides all these water conveyances, fresh country air and green fields can be reached by land carriage almost as cheaply. The Harlem railroad will carry you twelve or fourteen miles for a York shilling, or twelve and a half cents, and an omnibus now will take you in at the Battery and carry you up five miles upon the Island for a York sixpence, a Philadelphia fip, a New Orleans picayune, or a Yankee fourpence ha'penny. which seventees thousand are comprised in subterranean pas- For this smallest bit of silver, you can go to Yorkville, on the East River, and as far as the ferry that crosses to Astoria, and the commencement of the canal to its termination, is six hunthe town as far as Bloomingdale. These last modes of conof, in all the descriptions we have seen of this canal, as its veyance are highly democratic, though it is said the Autocrat "of all the Russias" has been seen to ride in an omnibus, paying the regular fare, and refusing to let the driver leave his regular track to set the Emperor down at the palace. I should like to see his imperial highness take a specimer

ride with our democracy, as I did the day before yesterday, to Yorkville. I went as far as the ferry to Astoria, intending to cross over and take a look at that pleasant village; but, findeach minute to the height of 150 feet. The debit of this ca- ing the day too near its close, I contented myself with remaining for half an hour on the cool and shady shore, watching the boiling tide and the steamboats ploughing their way through it, and then seated myself again in an omnibus to return to town. The carriage was of the ordinary size for a New York omnibus; it was drawn by three horses, and would seat comfortably about twelve persons in the inner side. The seats were soon filled, and some of the passengers began to remonstrate against receiving any more; but the driver insisted there was plenty of room inside for sixteen, and his liberality did not stop crowding them in till we counted twenty-one, in cluding three or four children, besides one extra standing on the steps. At the same time there was a tier of passengers stowed away upon seats on the top of the stage, and we had not gone far before we learned that there were fifteen stout fellows over our heads, making a snug cargo of thirty-six. Had the Emperor of Russia been with us, we should have counted thirty-seven; and, had he come in last, he may rely upon it he would have had to remain standing in the middle of the omnibus, or else take a seat in some other sovereign's lap.

The New York Institution for the Instruction of the Dea, and Dumb .- A sixpenny ride the other day in a Knickerbocker omnibus took me up to Fiftieth street, on the North supplied been rendered more extensive. Formerly, cattle from a long distance were always driven to Smithfield; now greatest interest to the completion of this project, have lately After getting more than my sixpenny worth of fresh air, and deputed commissioners, who are charged with considering the enjoying for awhile the refreshing scenery of the Hudson and means of executing it with those of Piedmont. They have buildings of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, about half a mile distant, and extended my walk to them. This establishment Baden, Bavaria, and Wurtemberg. The crossing of the is delightfully located on an elevated part of the island, about Alps will present the greatest difficulties, especially the cut five miles from the Battery or lower point of New York, and was formerly altogether impracticable. Now, however, these and other live cattle are brought from all parts to London, in five killometres. from it is rich and varied, and at present it enjoys a sort of country quietude at once soothing and refreshing, and favorashould be carried out, cannot fail to exert a great influence ble to mental and moral culture; and though it will at no distant day find itself entirely surrounded by a dense and wide spread city, its inmates may still enjoy a good degree of retire ment and quiet repose in the gardens and walks within its ample enclosure.

Reaching the main entrance, on Fiftieth street, and meeting two intelligent-looking young men seated on the steps, I hesitated to address them, not being able to judge from their appearance whether I should be heard or not. However, the door being open, I asked if I should walk in. I was at once satisfied that my voice found no entrance at the ear, though it was manifest that my thoughts readily reached the understanding. One of them immediately arose, and gracefully, without words, invited me in and showed me into a parlor. Presently one of the teachers appeared and showed me all the polite attentions which the occasion called for.

It was the annual vacation, and most of the pupils were away, so that I had not an opportunity to witness any of the school exercises; but I went over the buildings of the establishment, and observed with much pleasure the excellent arrangements, neatness, and good order of its various departments, including the extensive dining-hall in the basement, where the President with his family, and the professors, eachers, and pupils, to the number of about two hundred and fifty, take their meals together; on the next floor above, the pleasant parlors, the attractive museum of natural and artificial curiosities, the library, President's study, family apartments, &c.; then, one story higher, the extensive and exceedingly neat and well-arranged sleeping halls; and, finally, over the whole, in the top of the building, beneath a fine dome and skylight, a beautiful and convenient chapel, with seats to accommodate four hundred persons.

There are ranges of workshops connected with the establishment, where the pupils, in addition to their mental and moral training, are instructed in the mechanic arts, and prepared, on leaving the institution, to earn a livelihood by their industry. I went into the book-bindery and the shoemakers' and cabinet shops, in each of which a few of the pupils were voluntarily at work, probably finding more satisfaction in spending their time at their favorite handicrafts than in walking about and doing nothing.

Among the books doing up in the bindery were a couple of neat little volumes prepared for the instruction of the deaf and dumb by HARVEY PRINDLE PEET, the able and amiable President of the Institution; one entitled "Elementary Lessons, being a Course of Instruction for the Deaf and Dumb," and the other "Scripture Lessons for the Deaf and Dumb." These works seem to be exceedingly well adapted to the object for which they are prepared, and their usefulness has been proved and acknowledged to an extent which their benevolent author could hardly have anticipated, for it is said the Christian missionaries in the East have found Peet's Elementary Lessons for the Deaf and Dumb one of their best aids in teaching the English language to the Chinese.

This institution is nearly thirty years old. For several years in its infancy it remained feeble and inefficient, but it has since received, from time to time, substantial aid from the State and City Governments, and is now well-endowed and in a flourishing condition. The charge for the support and instruction of pupils is a hundred and thirty dollars a year. The number of pupils for the last year was two hundred and eight. Of these, one hundred and sixty are supported by the State, sixteen by the Corporation of the City, seven by the State of New Jersey, six by the Institution itself, and but nineteen by their own friends and relatives. Most of the pupils are from the State of New York, though South Carolina. Georgia, Wisconsin, Canada, and New Brunswick are each represented among them.

The French steamship *Philadelphia* left New York on Sunday at 9 o'clock A. M. She went off in gallant style, saluting the city and the different fortifications as she passed.

[.] Thou shalt not mar the corners of thy beard.